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General and complete disarmament: transparency in armaments

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Transparency in armaments

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 46/36 L of 9 December 1991, 47/52 L of 15 December 1992, 48/75 E of 16 December 1993, 49/75 C of 15 December 1994, 50/70 D of 12 December 1995, 51/45 H of 10 December 1996, 52/38 R of 9 December 1997, 53/77 V of 4 December 1998, 54/54 O of 1 December 1999, 55/33 U of 20 November 2000, 56/24 Q of 29 November 2001 and 57/75 of 22 November 2002 entitled "Transparency in armaments",

Continuing to take the view that an enhanced level of transparency in armaments contributes greatly to confidence-building and security among States and that the establishment of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms[1]

* Reissued for technical reasons.

[1] See resolution 46/36 L.

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constitutes an important step forward in the promotion of transparency in military matters,

Welcoming the consolidated report of the Secretary-General on the Register,[2] which includes the returns of Member States for 2002,

Welcoming also the response of Member States to the request contained in paragraphs 9 and 10 of resolution 46/36 L to provide data on their imports and exports of arms, as well as available background information regarding their military holdings, procurement through national production and relevant policies,

Stressing that the continuing operation of the Register and its further development should be reviewed in order to secure a Register that is capable of attracting the widest possible participation,

1. *Reaffirms* its determination to ensure the effective operation of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms,[1] as provided for in paragraphs 7 to 10 of resolution 46/36 L;

2. *Endorses* the report of the Secretary-General[3] on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development and the recommendations ensuing from the consensus report of the 2003 group of governmental experts contained therein;[4]

3. *Decides* to adapt the scope of the Register in conformity with the recommendations contained in the 2003 report of the Secretary-General;

4. *Calls upon* Member States, with a view to achieving universal participation, to provide the Secretary-General by 31 May annually with the requested data and information for the Register, including nil reports if appropriate, on the basis of resolutions 46/36 L and 47/52 L, the recommendations contained in paragraph 64 of the 1997 report of the Secretary-General on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development,[5] the recommendations contained in paragraph 94 of the 2000 report of the Secretary-General and the appendices and annexes thereto[6] as well as the 2003 report of the Secretary-General;

5. *Invites* Member States in a position to do so, pending further development of the Register, to provide additional information on procurement from national production and military holdings and to make use of the "Remarks" column in the standardized reporting form to provide additional information such as types or models;

6. *Reaffirms* its decision, with a view to further development of the Register, to keep the scope of and participation in the Register under review;

7. *Recalls*, to that end, its request to Member States to provide the Secretary-General with their views on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development and on transparency measures related to weapons of mass destruction;

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[2] A/58/203.
[3] A/58/274.
[4] Ibid., paras. 112-114.
[5] A/52/316 and Corr.2.
[6] A/55/281.

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to implement the recommendations contained in his 2003 report on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development and to ensure that sufficient resources are made available for the Secretariat to operate and maintain the Register;

9. *Reiterates its call upon* all Member States to cooperate at the regional and subregional levels, taking fully into account the specific conditions prevailing in the region or subregion, with a view to enhancing and coordinating international efforts aimed at increased openness and transparency in armaments;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on progress made in implementing the present resolution.